

AAUW NYS FOCUS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ■ NEW YORK STATE ■ SPRING2014 ■ VOLUME 63, ISSUE 2 ■ ISSN 1056 3199



CALL TO CONVENTION • APRIL 25-27 • HONOR'S HAVEN

RELAX, REGROUP, LEARN AND LAUGH

By JEAN HAVENS
AAUW-NYS Program Vice President

Three AAUW members walk into a convention ...

With set-ups like that, generations of entertainers in the resort hotels of New York's Catskill Mountains — everyone from Sid Caesar and Woody Allen to Jerry Lewis and Billy Crystal — told the jokes they hoped would launch their careers into the Big Time.

Today the heyday of the Borscht Belt stand-up comedian has become nostalgic show business lore, but Catskill destinations like Honor's Haven Resort in Ellenville continue to provide beautiful



KEYNOTER: Patricia Fae Ho, AAUW's national president.

as hiking trails and spa services, and meeting new friends over a round-robin card game.

A pre-dinner reception will honor emerging leaders from branches

settings for gatherings such as AAUW — New York State's 2014 convention, April 25-27.

Let's join those three members walking into the convention.

Friday afternoon and early evening they'll be enjoying settling into Honor's Haven, exploring amenities such

throughout the state while AAUW National President Patricia Fae Ho will present the dinner's keynote speech. Focusing on "Advancing Global Equity," Ho will seek members' comments on the status and achievement of women worldwide.

Saturday's program begins with "A Conversation with Patricia and Sandy" where Patricia Fae Ho and AAUW National Secretary Sandra Camillo will provide updates on national AAUW programs and initiatives.

Following this town-hall-format meeting, branch awards will be presented for

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Meet the candidates for state office

FOR PRESIDENT

Edwina Frances Martin, Esq., Staten Island Branch

A seven-year member of AAUW, Edwina serves on the board of the Staten Island Branch and as Secretary/Bylaws of the state board. She is "an enthusiastic and dynamic leader, and seems to know just what to say and when to say it," says State Organizer Kimberly Hayes Pollard. According to Staten Island Branch President Claire Regan, "no matter how daunting a project, Edwina has the ability to work at it, resolve any problems, and complete the task. She is a mentor to branch members, skilled at offering options and resolving impasses." Edwina offers experience in fund-raising, handling legal and business issues and non-profit operations.



FOR PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT

Jane Pfeiffer Russell, Bath Branch

Jane is no stranger to state leadership. A 37-year member of the Bath Branch, she has served AAUW as Public Policy Director and was state Program VP in 2002-2004. Former state president Evelyn M. Currie says: "As the owner of her own business, Jane brings a realistic approach to problems which face the state board. When I was AAUW-NYS President from 2002 to 2004, Jane contributed many creative ideas. I'm sure that she will bring exciting ideas to state programming in 2014-2016." Former LAF VP Susan Sontup Hearty says: "Jane is a committed, inspiring and dedicated leader. Her understanding and commitment to the AAUW mission will be a valuable resource as AAUW continues its work into the 21st century." And Bath Branch member Peg Inglis says: "Jane can tackle any task with loyalty and determination. She is an AAUW treasure."



FOR DEVELOPMENT VICE PRESIDENT

Janice Brown, Jefferson County Branch

Currently serving as state Educational Opportunities Fund Director, Janice brings to this new office enthusiasm, energy and an engaging style that has captured the hearts of her Jefferson County Branch members and the state in the three years she has been a member. Branch President Lynn Schwabenthal says: "Janice has demonstrated leadership and management skills in all aspects of her participation on the Jefferson County AAUW Board. She is always looking for ways to increase membership in our branch." An emerging leader for 2013, Janice has shown a flair for fund-raising. Convention Director Karen Carr says: "As Branch Chair for the Educational Opportunities Fund, Janice made sure members knew of the importance of giving to EOF and designed fund-raising activities like the publication of our first-ever AAUW branch cookbook."



PAST PARTICIPANTS GIVE THE EXPERIENCE A THUMBS-UP

Never been to convention? Take the plunge!

By **MARCINE HUMPHREY**

Attending the annual AAUW-NYS convention is an opportunity to fully engage in the mission, to exercise your right to know what our organization is doing and to express your ideas. Convention offers thought-provoking workshops and inspirational speakers and policy discussions.

The virtues and benefits of participating in our April gathering are many, but when you ask AAUW members why they attend, their answers are far more personal. Here's a sampling:

■ "I loved being in the company of so many intelligent women. By attending the business meeting and listening to dinner and lunch speakers, I learned so much about AAUW ... I became aware of the far-reaching effect AAUW has and can have I felt a new sense of pride in membership." -- Marcine

■ "As a first-time convention participant, I found the experience very positive and I'm looking forward to attending convention in 2014." -- Pat

■ "It was fun to meet AAUW members from all over the state. The workshops provided learning experiences while the lunch and dinner speakers and informal, around-the-edges socializing gave us a chance to increase our knowledge and share ideas. I can't wait to see who I'll meet this year!" -- Ann

In addition to learning and networking, convention offers some fun. On Saturday night, we'll have the opportunity to raise money for the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) by taking part in a line-dance lesson.

And the resort's luxurious indoor swimming pool beckons.

So come join the most interesting women in New York State for a weekend that will stimulate your mind, energize your body and inspire your soul.

Please note that due to a 1 percent increase in the local sales tax for Ulster County, final pricing for the hotel and meals package at Honor's Haven will be slightly higher than stated in the registration materials.

Call to convention at Honor's Haven

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

outstanding programming and Public Policy action. The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) luncheon will find our intrepid three members hearing from geologist Lauren Mancuso who was a litigant in a Title IX sex discrimination case involving the women's wrestling program at the University of California-Davis.

Members will have the opportunity to choose from four outstanding workshops (which will be offered again on Sunday) that afternoon:

Author Greta Nettleton will examine the quandary women found in balancing work and family life in the 19th century through the eyes of two women, one of whom was deemed a "quack" despite her success in the medical profession.

AAUW-NYS Membership Vice President Maria Ellis, and Kim Pollard, state organizer for AAUW Region I (Maine, New Hampshire and New York), will join forces to facilitate a members' forum addressing the leadership and membership challenges facing branches. Come learn the "Four Cs of Success"!

AAUW Fellow Sara Schoener, a doctoral student at Columbia University, will share her knowledge of women's public health issues with a special emphasis on Consumer Rights for Domestic Violence Survivors Initiative of the Maryland-based Center for Survivor Agency and Justice.

Dr. JoAnne Myers, activist and feminist scholar from Marist College, will explore the politics of reproductive rights, and women's rights in general, through "It's My Body," a political history that relates to many of today's AAUW Public Policy issues.

The workshops will be followed by "Working at Play", a presentation by Sullivan County Historian John Conway on the evolution of the Catskill hotels from the 1920s to the 1970s and the development of that unique entertainer, the stand-up comedian.

As our three eager branch members continue to walk through the convention, they'll find a variety of opportuni-



The spa at Honor's Haven offers relaxation and rejuvenation with breathtaking mountain views.



Presenters will include, from left, AAUW-NYS Organizer Kim Pollard; Dr. JoAnne Myers; AAUW-NYS Membership VP Maria Ellis; Sullivan County Historian John Conway, and Lauren Mancuso.

ties for networking; joining discussion groups on topics such as diversity, community coalitions, and social media; and checking out the regional baskets being offered by branches in support of LAF.

Saturday's dinner will feature Dr. Savi Bisath, associate director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership which is based at Rutgers University's Douglass Residential College.

Dr. Bisath will share her thoughts on "Women's Leadership, Women's Rights, and The Role of the Academy."

In the footsteps of the Catskills-themed movie "Dirty Dancing," members will close out the evening by supporting the Educational Opportunities Fund as they "Line Up for EOF," com-

plete with line dancing lessons and refreshments.

Our three enthusiastic members will rise early on Sunday for the business meeting, including the election of officers, followed by district caucuses. They'll have the chance to attend the second of their four workshop choices and will look forward to the installation of officers during the concluding luncheon.

So, three AAUW members walked into a convention ...

And when they left they had new ideas, new friends, a new appreciation of AAUW, and maybe a new joke or two. Sounds like fun?

Plan now to join them!

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Noted author will speak at convention

By JENN MAYFIELD

AAUW-NYS International Affairs/
Cultural Interests Director

During a spate of spring cleaning in 2007, Greta Nettleton unearthed a treasure trove. A dusty old trunk — already on its way to the dump— caught Nettleton's eye.

Inside, her great-grandmother's life was nearly perfectly preserved through an extensive collection of photo albums, diaries, music and scrapbooks.

Such a find would be special for anyone, but Nettleton's great-grandmother, Cora Keck, and her great-great grandmother, Dr. Rebecca J. Keck, were extra special women.

Dr. Keck was one of the most successful women entrepreneurs of 19th century America. She made her fortunes with medical patents, becoming a self-made millionaire and as well as a "notorious quack."

In a bid to elevate the Keck family's social standing, Dr. Keck sent her daughter, Cora, to Vassar College School of Music.

In 1884, Cora left her hometown of Davenport, Iowa for Poughkeepsie where she was among a new, but burgeoning, crop of American women accessing quality higher education.

Cora chronicled her life in diaries, photos, and scrapbooks, tucking them away into her trunk as she went. She couldn't have possibly predicted the happy accident of their rediscovery by her great-granddaughter.

In the tradition of the women in her family, Nettleton is also not any ordinary woman; she's a writer, editor and historian who has lived all over the world.

Fascinated by her discovery, Nettle-



ton used her training as a historian to piece together Cora's writing and photos and reconstruct her story. Ultimately, Nettleton wrote "The Quack's Daughter," an historical account of Cora's experience at Vassar, published by University of Iowa Press.

The material in that dusty trunk was an invaluable portal to the past and font of inspiration. Nettleton is working on a second book, "The Charmed Line," about her great-great grandmother, Dr. Keck, and her life as a controversial doctor in the mid-1800s.

When she is not writing, Nettleton travels and lectures about women's education, entrepreneurship, and involvement with medicine in the 1800s.

AAUW-NYS is delighted to offer a workshop hosted by Nettleton at the State Convention in April. It is a unique opportunity to learn about women's experiences in the 1800s from a different perspective and an expert in the field.

Nettleton will also have copies of "The Quack's Daughter" available for purchase.

For more information, visit gretanettleton.com and join us at Honor's Haven for an inspiring program.

A weekend to nourish mind, body and soul

You are invited and encouraged to attend the 2014 New York State Convention at Honor's Haven Resort in the Catskills on April 25 to 27.

Honor's Haven Resort & Spa, formerly the Fallsview Resort, is located in Ellenville, tucked between the picturesque Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains on 250 acres in Ulster County.

It's described as a place where man and nature converge harmoniously among vast wooded areas, tranquil lakes, crisp mountain air and awe-inspiring views.

Under new ownership, a multi-million dollar renovation project has created a unique new hospitality offering for the historic Catskill/Hudson Valley Region.

The Honor's Haven Resort features attractively furnished and remodeled rooms and suites with modern touches. Many of these rooms and suites offer majestic mountain views. The main dining room features windows with picturesque views of the golf course, private lake and Shawangunk Mountains.

Honor's Haven offers an assortment of facilities, activities and exceptional service in a beautiful rustic setting.

You'll find on-site sports facilities in-



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY MARY LOU DAVIS

cluding indoor/outdoor tennis courts, basketball and volleyball, indoor swimming pool, indoor jacuzzi overlooking the pool, private lake and mountains, fitness facility, dry and steam saunas, a variety of spa services including Swedish massage, cinema movie room, nightclub style showroom, video arcade and ping pong. Boating and fishing on the

private lake are also available.

A 9-hole championship golf course offers an exquisite taste of nature as its backdrop. During your stay, enjoy miles of hiking trails, ideal for hiking to the beautiful waterfall that was discovered in the 1800s.

Jean Havens, Karen Carr and Ann Pinna are planning an exciting weekend for you. The theme is A World of Wellness: Stimulating the Mind, Inspiring the Soul, Energizing the Body.

The keynote speaker on Friday

evening will be Patricia Ho, the AAUW President. She will inform us about AAUW's value to our communities, the outstanding work of our states and branches, and future directions for AAUW.

AAUW Board liaison Sandy Camillo will also attend convention.

On Saturday evening, Lauren Mancuso, a litigant in a Title IX discrimination case, will be the speaker. Public Policy VP Donna Seymour, St. Lawrence County Branch President Jennifer Ball, former College/University Director Jeri Fairman, and current College/University Director Barbara LeSavoy, with the support of State Organizer Kimberly Pollard, have been focusing on Title IX issues as part of our Impact Grant from National.

You will also be able to take advantage of workshops which will focus on topics such as women's public health issues, reproductive rights, techniques for revitalizing branches with an emphasis on membership growth and leadership, and an historic look at issues of work/family balance.

We will also enjoy a look at the history behind the Catskill resorts by the Sullivan County historian.

During the weekend, we will be conducting state business, electing officers, discussing our future plans, and celebrating branch and state actions. On Sunday we will be installing the new officers for the AAUW-NYS Board.

There will be a variety of LAF baskets and purses on display and an EOF fundraiser called "Dance the Night Away." Swimmers will raise money to support NCCWSL and the mermaid of the convention will be the member who swims the most lengths of the pool.

A raffle will be held to award two \$500 Queens Branch scholarships to two attending members for their branches.

If you come to convention, you will be able to enjoy the workshops and inspiring speakers, network with other AAUW members, and make new AAUW friends. We hope you will join us at the convention April 25-27.



By convention weekend, winter should be a distant memory as members relax on the patio.

AAUW of the STATE OF YORK, INC – Bylaws

Article VII Duties of Officers

Article IX Executive Committee

Section 3. Meetings and Quorum

- a. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President.

Article X Committees

Section 1. Committees

The Board of Directors shall authorize standing and special committees and task forces as outlined in the working rules.

Section 2. Qualifications and Terms of Committee Members

- b. Members of the standing and special committees and task forces shall be chosen

Section 3. Composition and Duties of Committees

- a. Standing committees with the approval of the board...
- b. Special committees and Task Forces. Special committees and Task Forces shall perform.....

Article XI Responsibilities of Branch Officers and Chairs to AAUW and AAUW NYS

Section 3. Duties of Officers and Chairs

Branch officers, task force and committee chairs shall make reports as may be required....or by special committee chair.

Article XIII Meetings of AAUW-NYS

Section 1. Time, Place, Notification

d. Notice of each meeting shall be sent by first class mail to all members eligible to vote at each meeting at least 30 (but not more than 50) days prior....

Section 2. Representation

- a. Voting Body
- 2. Chairs and members of all standing AAUW-NYS committees, special AAUW-NYS committees,...

A. 8072 Page 34 – Revitalization Act 2014

Items marked in red to be removed.

(e) Committees, other than [~~standing or special~~] committees of the 52 board, whether created by the board or by the members, shall be committees of the corporation. Such committees ~~of the corporation~~ may be elected or appointed in the same manner as officers of the corporation,
 55 ~~but no such committee shall have the authority to bind the board.~~
 56 Provisions of this chapter applicable to officers generally shall apply

Bylaw changes, amendments 2014

Article VII Duties of Officers Add underlined

Add: Section 6 Transition/Transfer of Records/Funds upon Termination of Elected/Appointed Term of Office.

- a. All previously elected/appointed board members shall submit, transfer or deliver records, funds and documentation to the appropriate incoming officer/appointee on or before July 1 of the fiscal year in which they will serve, or within 30 days after election, appointment if filling a vacancy during the term.

Article IX Executive Committee Add underlined

Section 3. Meetings and Quorum

- a. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or three members of the Executive Committee.

Article X Committees Remove underlined

Section 1. Committees

The Board of Directors shall authorize standing and special committees and task forces as outlined in the working rules.

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- b. Members of the standing and special committees and task forces shall be chosen

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Article XIII Meetings of AAUW-NYS Remove underlined

Section 1. Time, Place, Notification

d. Notice of each meeting shall be sent by first class mail to all members eligible to vote at each meeting at least 30 (but not more than 50) days prior....

ADD at end: If sent by facsimile telecommunication or mailed electronically, such notice is given when directed to the member's fax number or electronic mail address as it appears on the record of members, or, to such fax number or other electronic mail address as filed with the secretary of the corporation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, such notice shall not be deemed to have been given electronically (1) if the corporation is unable to deliver two consecutive notices to the member by facsimile telecommunication or electronic mail; or (2) the corporation otherwise becomes aware that notice cannot be delivered to the member by facsimile telecommunication or electronic mail.

Section 2. Representation

- a. Voting Body **Remove underlined**
- 2. Chairs and members of all standing AAUW-NYS committees, special AAUW-NYS committees,...

ADD: Section 3. Electronic Notice and Voting

- a. Any notice required or permitted by law or under these bylaws, may be given or sent via postal mail or through electronic means. Any member who provides AAUW- NYS with a valid email address consents to receiving official notices via email unless such member requests in writing to receive notices via postal mail
- b. For all purposes of conducting the business of AAUW-NYS, an electronic communication shall constitute a writing.
- C. Written and/or electronic consent thus given by all members entitled to vote shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote.
- d. All prior notices and actions of the board conducted via electronic means are hereby ratified.

PUTTING A FACE ON LAF

By **NANCY MION**
AAUW-NYS LAF Director

Sexual assault in the military has been brought to the attention of the public in no small measure through the support of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

Two years ago, after review of her application for funds, the LAF Committee spoke with Susan Burke, Esq. They decided to grant her LAF monies to continue her legal efforts to bring this grave injustice to the people.

Burke was pursuing the case of Cioca et al v. Rumsfeld et al. In this litigation sixteen veteran and active duty servicemen and servicewomen who had been, raped, sexually assaulted, and harassed by active duty members of the military while they were serving in the US Military filed a lawsuit against the Department of Defense.

Klay et al v. Panetta et al is another military sexual assault case filed by Susan Burke on March 6, 2012 in the District of Columbia. Ariana Klay is one of eight plaintiffs suing the U.S. military for allegedly creating a culture in which sexual assault and rape are tolerated and in which people who report it face retaliation. They allege that U.S. military officials tolerate sexual predators in their

ranks and antagonize service members who report rape, sexual assault, and harassment. The plaintiffs say that this culture of sexual assault violates their constitutional rights.

In early 2013, the U.S. District Court granted the defendants' motion to dismiss the case. The court held that the plaintiffs' injuries were incident to their military service and that the court was prevented by legal precedent from ruling on a military matter. Burke appealed to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Great news! The Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in the case on Feb. 14, 2014. A recording of the arguments can be heard on the court's website.

There is no doubt that the nation has become aware of sexual violence in the military. The award winning Oscar nominated documentary "Invisible War," which features Burke, the plaintiffs and other victims, is being widely viewed.

Those who have suffered military sexual assault are coming forward. There were 26,000 raped in 2012. The media, both electronic and paper, have carried articles of these abuses. Congress has held hearings too. As citizens' awareness of this workplace injustice grows the military and Congress will take action.



Kimberly Davis was the LAF speaker at the 2013 AAUW-NYS Convention. She is one of the 19 plaintiffs in the LAF supported military sexual assault lawsuit, Hoffman et al v. Panetta et al, filed by Burke in September 2012. She spoke about her struggle to obtain justice and made me realize the value of AAUW's support and how important it is to contribute to the Legal Advocacy Fund.

So come to the NYS Convention at Honor's Haven and hear for yourself the story of this year's LAF litigant Lauren Mancuso, the plaintiff in a sports-related Title IX case.

Bring your ideas for district conferences to Honor's Haven

By **JOAN MONK**
AAUW-NYS District Director

Want to learn more, connect more and do more? Then we've got a job for you!

District coordinators are needed in all seven districts for the next two years, 2014-2016. This is an important job to grow AAUW through New York State.

We need you to help spread the word and bring the latest programs and projects to the members in your district.

District caucus meetings are scheduled at the AAUW-NYS convention at Honor's Haven. Your ideas can make

our district conferences better than ever.

Let's thank the women who have given time in their districts:

Elaine Damsteegt and Kathi Clark (District 1); Marilyn Tedeschi and Barbara LeSavoy (District 2); Barbara Shuck and Mildred DeWitt (District 3); Robin Eddy and Elise Russo (District 4); Claire Regan and Branch Presidents (District 5); Erna Cunningham and Long Island Inter-branch Council (District 6); Jennifer Ball and Jeri Fairman (District 7).

BATTING A THOUSAND

As we bring a successful campaign

for Free the Girls to a conclusion at the April convention, we aim to go out on a high note; that is, "batting a thousand."

To date, we have collected 700-plus bras along with funds to pay for shipping costs. We'd like to top off collections at the 1,000 mark at convention, so please continue to collect bras along with the minimum shipping cost (\$1) and aim for that 1,000 mark.

A sincere thanks to everyone who participated in this AAUW-NYS board program. It shows what we can do when we join with like-minded organizations to fulfill our mission.



Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Vision Statement

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

Diversity Statement

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.

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Melt away all memories of winter

Spring will be in the air at the 2014 state convention, April 25-27 in Ellenville. To register, go to www.aauw-nys.org.